

RECIPROCAL CELL-FEELING

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they are separated in some cases. by space that is by no means inappreciable. If they are not isolated from one another by space that is within the body. neither need they necessarily be isolated from one another by space that is outside the body—in fact, the nerve-cells of one body may be able to communicate with the nerve-cells of another body if their awareness is actively reciprocal. In this thought we may find an explanation of certain very curious manifestations of sympathy between different individuals—of intimacies which seem to lay bare the innermost moods and even thoughts. of one friend to another. and of the puzzling phenomena of thought-reading. telepathy. and hypnotism. The remarkable affection that binds dog to man may be due to a certain innate responsiveness in the attunement of their nerve cells which enables one to sympathize with the other. Most lovers of dogs will affirm that they can read the mind of a dog as intimately as that of a human companion. At night. in the tropics. the trees are haunted by myriads of fire-flies. which flash their light sometimes independently. but at other times in most exact accord with one another, so as to illumine the foliage as by a gleam of lightning. They must time themselves by such a feeling of sympathy as we have been considering : and we may indeed, hold that their simultaneous

flashing
illustrates the sudden processes which
sweep
through our brains when we cogitate
and form
conclusions.

If the faculty of consciousness is
inherent in a
sensitive cell, it must be possessed, in
however
rudimentary a form, by all living
creatures. But
self-consciousness appears to be a
refinement that

Similar concerted action commonly occurs in the
insect world,
and is very noticeable in the accurate evolutions of a
flight of
gregarious birds.